



Fig. 50-2. Many kinds of trees will grow wherever they are planted. Some trees, however, grow more widely in certain sections of our country.

Forest researchers are constantly looking for ways to increase the production of wood. In some cases they have actually developed new kinds of trees. See Fig. 50-3. These trees sometimes grow more rapidly than trees native to the region.

The Inside of a Tree

Like all living things, a tree is composed of cells. As the tree grows, it constantly produces new cells. When the cells die, they become the woody mass of the tree.

Leaf cells contain **chloroplasts**, where sunlight is converted into chemical energy. This process is called **photosynthesis**. During this process, carbon dioxide is taken from the air. The carbon dioxide is combined with water and minerals from the root system. With proper sunlight these materials are converted into

Fig. 50-3. This small seedling is being tested to determine its hardness. Tests like these help researchers identify better, faster-growing trees.

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